

BADGER & MANLEY, Publishers and Proprietors.

Vol. XLIX.

## Maine Farmer.

Maine Fair Calendar, 1881.

COUNTY FAIRS.	
Androscoggin, Lewiston.....	Sept. 6, 9
Franklin, Farmington.....	Oct. 11, 12
Franklin Central, Strong.....	Sept. 24, 25
Knox, Camden.....	Oct. 4, 6
Knox North, Union.....	Oct. 4, 6
Limestone, Danforth.....	Sept. 27, 29
Outfield Valley, Corinth.....	Sept. 30, 1, 2
Oxford County, Parma.....	Sept. 27, 29
Oxford West, Fryeburg.....	Oct. 11, 12
Penobscot, Hampden.....	Sept. 25, 26
Penobscot North, Lincoln.....	Sept. 28, 29
Penobscot West,扣ster.....	Sept. 27, 28
Piscataquis, Presque Isle.....	Oct. 1, 2
Seagull, Topsham.....	Oct. 11, 12
Sedgwick, North, Unity.....	Oct. 12, 13
Washington West, Machias.....	Sept. 30, 31
Waldo, Sabbathday.....	Sept. 27, 29
Waldo North, Unity.....	Oct. 12, 13

### The Lime Question.

We print in another place an article from an Arostook farmer on the use of plaster which only goes to prove what we recently stated, that it is difficult to find two farmers whose views will entirely harmonize either as to the action or value of this fertilizer. This writer has certainly given some thought to the subject and evolved ideas peculiarly his own, though some of them are not in accordance with well established principles of science. As to the action of gypsum, we are inclined to accept the conclusions of Liebig and other noted scientists as stated by us in a recent article upon the subject, rather than the "guesses" of those who have not and cannot give the question such intelligent and careful consideration. It is very easy for us to say "we believe" a thing, but when asked to give the ground work of our faith, we are very liable to stumble unless we have facts to back up and sustain our theories. We say we are inclined to accept the later conclusions of Liebig as to what plaster does, until they are controverted by some one entitled to equal or greater confidence, but at the same time we like to hear practical suggestions upon the best methods of applying it to the soil and its value under different conditions, and our columns are always open to intelligently written communications upon the subject.

### Clostry.

Now is the time to transplant celery into trenches and every family should provide for a generous supply of this valuable plant. It is not only delicious as an edible, but it has medicinal qualities which highly commend it. A correspondent of the *Practical Farmer* thus speaks of the plant and our own observation and experience go to corroborate his statement: I have known many men and women too, who from various causes, had become so much affected with nervousness, that when they stretched out their hands they shook like asperges on windy days—and by a daily moderate use of the blanched foot stalks of celery leaves as a salad, they became as strong and steady in limbs as other people. I have known others so very nervous that the least annoyance put them in a state of agitation, and they were almost in constant perplexity and fear, who were also effectively cured by a daily moderate use of blanched celery as a salad at meal times. I have known others cured by using celery for palpitation of the heart. Everybody engaged in labor weakening to the nerves, should use celery daily in its season, and onions in its stead when not in season.

Manure should be pitched over occasionally to pulverize it, and if it heats, muck loam or road dust should be mixed with it to absorb and save the ammonia that is let loose by the process of fermentation. Sprinkling the heap with plaster is also a good thing. The plaster will absorb any ammonia which escapes from the fermenting pile and save it for the use of growing plants. Ammonia is too costly a plant food to be wasted or allowed to pass into the air from whence only a small portion will ever be returned to the premises from which it escaped. The careful and economical farmer will pay particular attention to this subject.

### Notes.

400,000 tin cans have been made for Messrs. W. H. Field and Charles E. Gay of Auburn and are attacked at their new canning factory, recently completed at New Gloucester. The factory is of 500 capacity, and a full crew of about 150 people will put up 30,000 cans a day. Two hundred acres of sweet corn, which should yield 1,000 cans to the acre, have been planted for the firm. The outlook for the crop is not as good as usual. The corn came up badly and is backward. Fifteen acres of tomato plants are growing well and it is estimated they will yield six hundred bushels (or about 18,000 cans) to the acre. The bread of the tornado was from one and one-half to two miles wide and more or less damage was reported at other places. It is rarely the case that we have such a visitation in this State.

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*Celery.* (Apium graveolens) belongs to the Parsley family of plants, a family that has many medicinal plants and of very opposite character. To it belong the carrot, coriander and the parsley; also common or poison hemlock, caraway, fennel, angelica, lovage and sainfoin. In its wild state it is found on the coast of Europe. It is strong-scented acrid and perhaps poisonous. The variety which we use called sweet celery has become bland by cultivation and blanching. Another variety is called turnip-rooted, where the root has become enlarged and watery.

### A Destructive Tornado.

There was a terrific hail storm in Cumberland county on Tuesday of last week which did much damage to crops. It apparently commenced in North Gorham about 4:30 P. M., passed across Windham, thence to Cumberland, Cumberland and Chebeague, and it is reported, a touch of it was felt at Freeport. When it struck the Chebeague it had lessened a good deal, but the wind was still very strong, covering about four and a half hours of time. Reporters of the Portland daily described the scene of the storm after it had subsided.

Although there is disagreement among farmers upon almost every farm topic, there is one subject upon which the views harmonize, and that is in the advantage of a frequent change of seed for all crops. The extra expense is trifling, mere nothing compared with the advantages gained by always putting in the best of seed. When farmers derive from this course, it is not lack of knowledge.

Associated dairying has not been very popular in Maine, but nothing seems plainer than that the manufacture of butter and cheese designed for the market is soon to pass entirely into the hands of skilled workmen employed in factories which are fitted up with the necessary appliances to produce a first rate article. The days of poor butter are numbered, as consumers prefer oleomargarine to an inferior quality of butter.

We regret to learn that one of the fine polished Angus cows recently imported by Burleigh and Bowdell recently died. She was the finest cow of the breed that we ever saw. The cause of her death is somewhat obscure but from a post mortem examination of her stomach, it is supposed that she may have swallowed a piece of

iron wire which had become entangled in the intestines.

At Yarmouth foreside Mr. J. M. Buckland, an enterprising and intelligent farmer, was damaged nearly \$500. He stated that his crops were entirely ruined. Before the introduction of artificial manures, lime was more universally used than now, which helps to account for the poor crops of clover, and the difficulty of raising good turnips. It is essentially necessary that a supply of lime should ex-

ist in the soil to meet the requirements of the various crops. Every cultivated plant needs a supply of lime for the proper building up of its structure, and, in combination with phosphoric acid, lime forms a large portion of the skeletons of the animals who feed upon the crops. A soil may contain large supplies of every ingredient which a crop requires, and still be unable to yield them to the plant, being in an inactive state, as it is only that portion of the soil which is soluble in water which is available as plant food. Any analysis of a soil which only tells its composition, is of little value unless it can show the active matter ready to be taken up by the crop. Lime acts upon the dormant matter in the soil, and performs the important function of rendering these active. Clay soils generally contain within themselves potash and soda, and we know by experiment that lime liberates these inorganic elements.

According to Professor Way, lime helps to form a valuable class of salts known as double silicates or alumina, which have the power of absorbing ammonia from the atmosphere. Lime neutralizes the acids in the soil and sweetens the herbage, besides supplying food for the perfect growth of the crops. It is thought by some to be a wasteful practice to allow lime to come in immediate contact with farmyard manure, thinking it would cause a loss of ammonia; but they overlook the controlling influence consequent upon the action taking place in the soil. The action of caustic lime upon a mixture of farmyard manure and decayed organic matter produces a most valuable fertilizer, viz., lime phosphate of potash, and brings into useful condition the several organic and inorganic matters in the soil, also improves its physical character, rendering stiff and tenacious clays more friable and easy to work. However, the use of lime renders a soil of other manures necessary, and under a good system of husbandry the increase of crops will increase the quantity of manure. It is one of our best natural manures. However, it cannot be expected to produce its full effects immediately after being applied.

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As we passed by the Fair Grounds of the Oxford County Agricultural Society last week, we noticed that new buildings were in process of erection in place of those recently burned. The Society is building larger and better, and when they are completed will have the most substantial and commodious exhibition-buildings in the State. The Society has always been prosperous, and it is not to be wondered at, for their financial affairs have always been adroitly managed.

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# The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

## Poetry.

### Eliphalet Chapin's Wedding.

BY WILL CARLETON.

Two when the leaves of autumn were by temples picked,  
Eliphalet Chapin started to become a bachelorette,  
With an ox wagon to bring back his new-found goods.  
He had been a soldier, wounded through some twenty miles of woods;

With great personal ardor in his honest steed;

But Eliphalet's wedding journey did't bridle with

Oh no,

With candle to direct,

Eliphalet's wedding journey didn't tremble with

He had not carried five miles his mouth-dispatched fare.

When his wedding garments part in some loose dress,

He'd given both his ox to a wife that now

For her company two minutes with a needle and a thread;

But he brought them up with twinges of occasional distress,

Feeling that his wedding wouldn't be a carnival of drums.

"Haw, Buck!

Dared pretty much?

No; Eliphalet was not strictly a spectacular success.

He had gone not fifteen miles with extended fare,

When sight lay down upon him and kept him.

And when the daylight twinkled at the gloom with in its mists,

Wrecked;

And had to cut a sapling and insert it in the "ex."

So he ploughed the hills and valleys with that Deric

Feeling that his wedding journey was not all he could do.

"Gee, Bright!

"G'ong, Buck!

He shouted with ire;

No; Eliphalet's wedding journey none in candor or desire.

By the time he got to town he was a young man.

This proposal was satisfactory, wherefore

the gardener was made happy.

Shortly afterwards we had an interview,

and the old man told us the name of the old bird stuffer, whom I shall henceforth call the naturalist—as this designation was the one that pleased him—so the buttry breeder, and two others, were engaged.

Then the strangers—first looked

at me, then at the shop, and then out, seen, out of which the bird was shaken, a number of trinkets.

Nearly all the proceeds of the two robbers which the jeweler had taken were given to the naturalist, and a sum being absent.

And some of the property of the provision dealer was also found stowed in the breeding box, though most of it had been used up.

So the gardener had been preyed upon,

Feeling that his wedding journey was not all he could do.

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